FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 DECEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 17 December announced air strikes on oil-pumping stations at Tang-e Fanni, in western Iran, and on Iranian oil-loading platforms at the Ardeshir and Cyrus oilfields in the Gulf. Iraqi planes also hit a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 18 December, according to a military statement reported by INA. Although IRNA asserted that Iranian air defenses downed an Iraqi warplane in the Bakhtaran area 17 December, the claim was denied by an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA.

Responding to recent disclosures about U.S. intelligence assistance to Iraq, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said this clarifies Iraq's dependence on the United States and exposes the latter's partiality in the war. The Iranian statement, which was broadcast by Tehran radio, added that Iran condemns this "hostile and inhuman" U.S. action, though it stressed that such "puny deeds" will have little effect on the outcome of the war

Iranian Protest to Kuwait

Iran has protested Kuwait's "inhuman and unlawful" action in expelling a number of Iranians by sea in a boat which sank en route for Iran, causing the death of at least 10 people, Tehran radio reported. The radio accused the Kuwaiti authorities of not allowing the deportees to use valid air tickets to leave the country, claiming that Kuwaiti officials misappropriated such tickets and sold them for private gain.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil told Paris radio that he hopes to normalize relations with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and he disclosed that dialogue between Syria and Lebanon has resumed "at a responsible level." Referring to the short-lived tripartite agreement, Al-Jumayyil said the Syrians had been "tempted" by proposals which were "very attractive" for Syria, but which could never have been applied. Both Syria and Lebanon paid a high price for this "adventurism," he added, but there is now more political realism "on all levels" and current initiatives could result in a "new approach" that will lead to a redefinition of bilateral relations.

As for the Palestinians, Al-Jumayyil said the Lebanese Government cannot accept a Palestinian armed presence in the refugee camps, stressing that "we shall never accept the rearming of the Palestinian camps."

Israel

Rabin on Cuts — Finance Minister Moshe Nisim's new economic plan is "totally unacceptable" as it will harm security for the sake of higher living standards, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in an interview with Jerusalem radio. Confirming that he will vote against Nisim's plan, Rabin said the proposed 180-million shekel cut in the defense budget will spell the end for the Lavi aircraft project.

West Bank — An IDF soldier was attacked with an ax while patrolling in Ramallah 18 December, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that the Israeli was hospitalized with "medium" injuries.

Regarding the West Bank economic situation, the Amman paper *Akhbar Al-Usbu' reported that three more Jordanian banks are* planning to open branches in the area. On the future of the Arab-owned East Jerusalem Electricity Corporation, Jerusalem radio reported that the Israeli authorities have agreed to extend the corporation's franchise for another 10 years in exchange for the latter's agreement to let an Israeli company supply electricity to Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria. According to *Hadashot, Jordan is behind the agreement, while pro-PLO* circles intend to fight against it.

Libyan and French Involvement in Chad

The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned the French ambassador in Tripoli to protest France's "military moves" in Chad and the "escalation of its direct military intervention" in that country, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported. A Foreign Liaison Bureau source cited by the radio warned that in response to this situation, Libya will be "obliged to take its forces back to Chad."

The Libyan protest followed Paris radio's disclosure that French transport planes have dropped supplies and ammunition to supporters of former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei who are fighting against Libyan troops in the Tibesti region of northern Chad. A Chadian Government military communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio announced that Chadian "patriots" repulsed another Libyan offensive in Tibesti 17 December.

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Najibullah Informs Politburo of USSR Visit

LD151803 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 15 Dec 86

[Text] Today an irregular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held. The results of the visit by General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib, as head of the PDPA delegation to the Soviet Union for an official and friendly visit to that country, were assessed.

Comrade Najib presented detailed information on the most important consequences of the talks with the USSR's party and state leadership with CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

The delegation again emphasized that the PDPA and the DRA Government have consistently strengthened the constructive dialogue with domestic and foreign political forces and will expand and consolidate its relations with all neighbors.

The Soviet leadership completely supported the efforts by the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Government for achieving a speedy political solution to the situation around Afghanistan. It was noted in the talks that presently there are real possibilities for speeding up the process of normalizing the situation around Afghanistan. During the talks and meetings all political, economic, and military issues were discussed.

Both the leaders of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union expressed satisfaction over the concurrence of opinions on important and vital issues of peace and war and domestic and international issues.

Talks were held in a climate of sincerity, respect, and trust on the independence, sovereignty, and nonalignment of Afghanistan.

Comrade Najib gave detailed information to the session on the meaningful agenda of the delegation's visit, to Moscow, Tashkent, and Samarkand, and about the feeling of fraternity and friendship the Soviet people have toward the revolutionary people of Afghanistan.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo on behalf of the party and people of Afghanistan, expresses heartfelt appreciation for CPSU General Secretary Comrade Gorbachev and the entire Soviet leadership for the warm welcome; for constructive, and meaningful talks; for deep understanding of the DRA's problems; and for determining a joint solution for the country's issues, which have piled up.

The Politburo highly assesses the work of the delegation headed by General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib during the friendly and official visit to the Soviet Union.

Chamkani Addresses Mangal Tribal Assembly

LD171945 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Acting President of the Revolutionary Council and Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council Haji Mohammad Chamkani took part this afternoon in the broad traditional tribal assembly of the Mangal tribe, Paktia Province, which was held in the headquarters of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The session began after reading a few verses from the Holy Koran. Then the acting president of the Revolutionary Council Presidium spoke in detail and said:

The warm welcome and enthusiastic support for the national reconciliation policy of the PDPA by the elders, chiefs, and all our people in the country proves that the wish of the party, government, revolution, and our people is to bring about reconciliation and national security in the country. Now it is the immediate duty of you elders to gather around the NFF [National Fatherland Front], which is the broadest political and social organization in the country and to take action for the sacred aspiration of defending peace and shielding the country's borders, for further consolidation of the new sovereignty, and for broadening the social pillars of the revolution.

Haji Mohammad Chamkani regarded the visit to the USSR of General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Comrade Najib and high-ranking party and government delegation of the DRA as a major new stage for the consolidation of Afghan-Soviet relations. In explaining the results and gains of this visit, he expressed gratitude for the fraternal and internationalist statement of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade Gorbachev, which said: We would not leave alone our southern neighbour in a difficult situation.

Babrak Mangal, Solaymankhel Mangal, A'qelshah Khan, and Haji Taza Gol then spoke on behalf of the Mangal tribe, and expressed delight and gratitude for the high results of Comrade Najib's visit to the friendly and fraternal USSR and the statements by the leaders of both countries; and they expressed their unreserved support for the humanitarian and humane efforts by the party and government leadership of the country for the restoration of national peace. They pledged to take practical action for the safeguarding and security of their region, and formation of border militias and tribal battalions, in accordance with the tradition of the Mangal tribe and the requirement of the PDPA.

The assembly ended after deciding on the creation of a peace assembly for the realization of the objectives of the national reconciliation policy among the Mangal tribe.

PDPA Sends Message on Vietnam Congress

LD170955 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0512 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 16, BAKHTAR — A congratulatory message has been sent to Hanoi by the Central Committee of the PDPA on the occasion of the 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Addressing the participants of the congress, the message says that the 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam is being held at a time when the international situation has become very dangerous due to the hostile efforts of the imperialist and reactionary forces.

Overcoming the existing dangers, the foiling of the interventionist and neo-globalism policy of Reagan administration, and prevention of the outbreak of a catastrophic nuclear war call for the concerted efforts of the forces of peace and progress in the world.

The message expresses confidence that the relations between the governments and parties of the two countries will be strengthened in the interest of the peoples of both countries and consolidation of peace and security in the world, including the Asian continent.

Full support has also been expressed in the message to the honest efforts of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the consolidation of peace, mutual understanding, and an atmosphere of confidence in South East Asia.

Reportage on Operations by Armed Forces

Faryab Province 'Dens' Assaulted

LD171850 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] A courageous assault by the Armed Forces on the satanic dens of the counterrevolutionaries in Pashtun Kowt and Shirin Tagab Districts, Faryab Province, has taken place. A number of murderers along with their ringleaders (Jan Mohammad) (Sarajoddin) and (Abdorrahim Pahlawan), belonging to the criminal band of Rabani, were killed.

A BIA correspondent reports that during these successful operations, mounted in cooperation with the working inhabitants of these areas, assorted weapons and ammunition of the enemy were seized. Also 3 Chinese rocket launchers, 3 heavy U.S.-made machine guns, 30 assorted Egyptian and English manufactured weapons, and 8 surface-to-surface missiles that had been stored in a hideout by the counterrevolutionaries for intimidating and murdering our innocent people, were destroyed.

'Bandits' Captured in Balkh Province

LD180612 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 17, BAKHTAR: Twelve counter-revolutionary bandits were captured and some were eliminated as a result of a mopping up operation of the Armed Forces of the DRA in Shingalabad, Dewali Maidan, and Shortëpa villages of Balkh Province.

Recoilless cannons, Chinese rocket launchers, heavy machine guns, 114 ground-to-ground rocket launchers, 16 different American and Chinese weapons, and a great number of anti-personnel mines have been seized from the counter-revolutionary bandits.

Mujahidin Attack Soviet-Najib Forces in Faryab

BK171535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] A delayed report from Afghanistan says that the mujahidin made a surprise attack on a military convoy near Pashtun Kowt town in Faryab Province which borders the Soviet Union on 22 November and inflicted heavy loss of lives to Soviet-Najib forces.

Ershad Returns After Visit to Saudi Arabia

BK141049 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 14 Dec 86

[Excerpt] President Ershad returned home this morning after concluding a 3-day official visit to Saudi Arabia. Begum Raushan Ershad accompanied him. The president and Begum Raushan Ershad were received at the Zia International Airport, among others, by Vice President A.K.M. Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, ministers, chiefs of staff of three services, diplomats, high civil and military officials. [passage omitted]

Some 2,500 Prisoners Granted General Amnesty

BK160141 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Dec 86

[Text] The government has decided to grant general amnesty to certain classes of prisoners on the occasion of the Victory Day. About 2,500 prisoners will be released under this general amnesty.

Paper Comments on Hasina Meeting in Delhi

BK151521 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Dec 86 P 1

[Text] Sheikh Hasina, Awami League chief and leader of the opposition in the Parliament, during her recent trip to India met Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi.

Although there has been no words on this meeting from Awami League, the government sources in Dhaka indicated the talks between Rajiv Gandhi and Sheikh Hasina centered round domestic political situation in Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina, who went to India to bring back her children for winter recess, broke her journey at New Delhi before proceeding to Naini Tal. Sheikh Hasina's presence in the Indian capital coincided with Soviet Communist Party Chief Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India.

Interestingly enough Bangladesh High Commission in India was involved in the meeting and was represented at the meeting by the Deputy High Comissioner. Sheikh Hasina on her arrival at the Delhi Airport was met by high ranking Indian officials. Why did Sheikh Hasina choose the Indian soil to announce party decision to join the coming session of Parliament is intriguing. This has been a very important decision and such decision should have been disclosed in Dhaka, political analysts viewed.

Editorial Views Gorbachev Visit to India

BK151620 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Dec 86 p 5

[Editorial: "Peace and Response"]

[Text] Soviet leader Mr Gorbachev's visit last week to the Indian capital came off amidst many eyes cocked up to it. India's neighbours, particularly Pakistan and China, were watching out for its outcome with more than usual interest. And quite naturally, the former against a geopolitical setting rendered pretty tense with a live war across the border (Afghanistan) and relations with the other neighbour, India, much below par. India's belligerent-sounding words had punctuated a steadily plumetting bilateral relation over the twin questions of Pakistan harbouring Sikh extremists and building up a nuclear arsenal. As for Sino-Indian relations, they have been, by and large, correct ever since after the 1962 war.

Mr Gorbachev making his first visit to a neighbour with whom his country's friendship has been "long and tested out" was doing so, it would appear, with Reykjavik very much on his mind not necessarily the failure of it, at least the afterthoughts that usually follow great encounters.

But the trend of the Delhi meeting was set by the pre-visit statement he made on Afghanistan pointing to "a political settlement that was not far". The same level-headedness marked practically all his speeches and statements and, not least, the joint declaration issued. Though unexciting to those who had looked for drama of sorts, peace remained the centre-piece of the Soviet leader's entire performance. Its emphatic expression was in the broadest generality of peace in a nuclear free world. His proposal for collective regional security, (an idea which is yet to be sold to the countries in the region), reduction of military presence of the super-powers in the Indian ocean is of the same piece. But what was of particular regional interest — outside the generalities — was his offer of assistance on "an equal footing" to countries in Asia and the Pacific. Of peculiar relevance to the regional situation was his emphasis on the improvement of "bilateral relations between the nations in Asia" for overall security. He called for "confidence-building" mesures in the region.

This came pat against the background of declining bilateral relations and mounting bitterness, as, for instance, between India and Pakistan. To take him at his word, Mr Gorbachev appeared not to endorse such postures. This may have been a pleasant surprise to some and may be less than pleasant to others. Hence the response, since made known by Islamabad made Beijing to the Delhi-talks, is one of quiet welcome accompanied with hopes that Mr Gorbachev would be no party to anything that might militate against peace or confidence in the region. [sentence as received]

Just a little anticlimactic though this might be for India, she has however nothing to worry about. The second most populous country in the world, with the third largest army, with fresh assurances of new arms (Mig 29 among other military hardware) from Russia, and the General Electric F-404 jet engine, high technology etc. offers from U.S. Defence Secretary Mr Caspar Weinberger, earlier in October, seems to have the best of both worlds. Into the bargain is a friendship that has been enduring enough to see India through crises in the past and not likely to fail in the future. Given this and the cooperation reaffirmed by a super-power neighbour, India would stand to gain — and have little to lose — by initiatives toward promoting bilateral relations and helping usher in a process of peace and amity in the region. This happening, a ready response from the smaller neighbours can be taken as granted.

Gandhi: No Concession to PRC on Border Issue

BK180855 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said he does not propose to meet the leaders of the Gurkha National Liberation Front during his visit to Darjeeling tomorrow. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking to newsmen on his arrival at Calcutta Airport this morning at the start of his 3-day tour of West Bengal. He was received by the governor, Professor Nurul Hassan; the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu; and others. According to agencies, Mr Gandhi and Mr Basu had a close-door half-an-hour meeting at the airport. Afterward, the prime minister said that he and the chief minister will meet in Delhi next month to discuss among other things the Gurkhaland agitation. He said they will also fix a date for their joint visit to Darjeeling.

Referring to the Chinese intrusion into Arunachai Pradesh, Mr Gandhi ruled out any question of making territorial concessions to China to resolve the border dispute. Our perception about our borders is very clear, he said. The prime minister, who is on his third visit to the state in the last 4 months, later left by road for North 24 Parganas District. Thousands of the people lined the roadside to greet him. [passage omitted]

Narasimha Rao Receives Visiting PRC Delegation

BK130402 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 13 Dec 86

[Text] A Chinese delegation led by Mr Liu Zhongde called on the minister for human resource development, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi. They discussed various aspects of educational management in the two countries. Mr Liu is the vice minister of State Education Commission of China. [title, organization as heard]

Punjab Assembly Opposition Walks Out As Protest

BK171008 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] In the Punjab assembly, the Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] staged a walk out today during the Zero Hour in protest against the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. The Congress-I MLA's [members of the legislative assembly] boycotted the proceedings of the house for the rest of the day. Leading the walk out, the leader of the opposition, Mrs Gurbinder Kaur Brar, condemned the killing of six persons including the aged and children in Amritsar District on Monday evening. The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, while joining the members in condemning the incident described the boycott as unjustified in view of the scheduled discussion on the law and order situation in the house tomorrow.

Gunmen Kill 2 in Punjab's Faridkot District

BK181243 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were shot dead by some unidentified gunmen in (Rude) village of Faridkot District last night. The victims were sitting in their shop when they were attacked. The assailants escaped in the cover of darkness.

Ziaul Haq Receives Saudi Defense Minister

LD171438 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al 'Aziz second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and general inspector, met today with his excellency the Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul Haq.

During the meeting, the friendly relations between the two fraternal countries were reviewed. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani president held a banquet in honor of His Highness Prince Sultan this afternoon.

Spokesman on Foreign Secretary's Moscow Visit

BK171211 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today said the Foreign Secretary [Abdus Sattar] had useful meetings with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, and the first deputy foreign minister during his visit to the Soviet Union. These meetings focussed on concepts underlining the question of the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. He said the Soviet first deputy foreign minister has been given an open invitation to visit Islamabad for the continuation of dialogue on Afghanistan.

About the foreign secretary's visit to Paris, the spokesman said it was aimed at discussing the question of Pakistan's claim for compensation for the nonperformance of the contract regarding the construction of reprocessing plant in Pakistan in accordance with the bilateral agreement in 1976.

Yaqub Khan To Make 6-Day Visit to PRC 24 Dec

BK171625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will pay a 6-day visit to PRC next Wednesday [24 December] at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian. A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said in Islamabad today that Yaqub Khan will exchange views with the Chinese foreign minister on matters, among other things, pertaining to the Afghanistan problem and will apprise him about the recent progress made on the issue.

Further Reportage on Violence in Karachi

Curfews To Be Relaxed

BK171621 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] In Hyderabad, the district administration has announced that curfew will be relaxed in Hyderabad and Latifabad from 0800 to 1000 and again from 1400 to 1500 tomorrow.

Press Note Issued on Situation

BK171741 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration tonight says that there was no untoward incident today. Of course, during curfew relaxation there were sporadic incidents in which eight persons were injured. Among them two were injured in the firing by the law enforcing agencies. Karachi administration has announced that curfew will be relaxed in Orangi, Liaqatabad, Sohrab Goth, and Gul Bahar from 0700 to 0900 tomorrow and from 1500 to (?1630) tomorrow. Curfew in other areas of district east and west will be relaxed from 0700 to 1000 and from 1500 to 1700.

Junejo on Restoring Law, Order

BK180113 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said that the government is determined to stamp out the evil of narcotics and the people have responded positively to the government's commitment to root out this menace. He was addressing elected representatives, ulema, and notables from Sukkur, Hyderabad, and Karachi division in Karachi today. The prime minister said that during his meeting with people from various walks of life he found unanimity among them on the [words indistinct] steps taken against drug dealers. But the agents of drug dealers took undue advantage of the situation and fanned violence and attempted to sow discord among people and disrupt law and order, resulting in (?heavy) losses. He said that his government attaches prime importance to restoring law and order and it will fulfill its responsibilities in this regard. The participants of the [word indistinct] extended full support to government steps against drug dealers and deplored the acts of violence. They assured wholehearted cooperation to government in its effort to maintain law and order in Karachi and to restore normalcy.

Opposition on Government 'Failing'

BK180311 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] The Pakistan opposition leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto, has accused the government of failing to protect the lives and property of the people of Karachi in the recent ethnic clashes. Addressing a news conference in Karachi yesterday, Miss Bhutto said the administration has clearly failed because it has no public support and it does not represent the people.

Meanwhile, top Pathan leaders and the Pashtun Students Federation have cautioned the government that ethnic clashes in Sind could spill over into other provinces if the government continued its policy of divide and rule. The leaders include the Frontier Gandhi, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan; the Awami National Party leader, Haji Ghulam Ahmed Billour; and others.

Three more persons were killed in ethnic clashes in Karachi yesterday. Scattered clashes were also reported in different areas

of the city during the curfew relaxation period. Many parts of the city are under curfew and troops are patrolling the street.

AFP Reports Further

BK171645 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Karachi, Pakistan, Dec 17 (AFP) — [Passage omitted] Miss Bhutto, co-chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), demanded the immediate dismissal of the Sind governor, Lieutenant-General Jehandad Khan, and Chief Minister Syed Ghous Ali Shah. [passage omitted]

Saying she and her party did not want to exacerbate ethnic tensions, nor were they out to take political advantage, Miss Bhutto asked: "Where are the so-called public representatives hiding now, and why do they not go to the riot-affected areas in the city?"

She also expressed deep concern over the tense border situation, saying: "We should not ignore the threat to our borders. We should take it seriously. It is just not enough to say that (Indian Prime Minister) Rajiv Gandhi is a gentleman."

Pakistan, she said, "is facing a severe crisis when Indian troops are massed upon our borders and when carnage and massacre have been let loose in Karachi. The callous disregard shown for human life by this regime is beyond comprehension." "Never since the 1947 independence migration has so much blood flowed in the streets or such terror reigned" as in the recent riots, she said. Miss Bhutto added that PPP workers all over the country had been directed to aid the relief camps in Karachi.

Pakistan's internal and external problems could be solved if the political process was initiated, she held. "It is the conviction of the Pakistan People's Party that the survival of the country depends upon the political process by giving a sense of participation to the people and the federating units of the country," she said.

Jayewardene Views Report on Referendum

BK171455 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] President Jayewardene said yesterday that the report on the referendum had been submitted to a parliamentary committee, which includes MP's of the opposition as well. Mr Jayewardene made it clear that it is the Parliament which has the power to probe any irregularity in a referendum or general election.

Opening a new post office building in Kotahena in Colombo, the president said that there was a conspiracy to wipe out democracy from this land if late Hector Kobbekaduwa, who was a minister in the SLFP government, came to power in the last presidential election. If this happened, he said, it was not Mrs Bandaranaike but the Naxalite [extremist] group in the party which would have come to power. Therefore, the referendum had saved Mrs Bandaranaike from political ruin.

Speaking further on the referendum, the president pointed out that even politicians like Anura Bandaranaike and Maitripala Senanayake extended their support to the referendum. However, the report of the commission of election has referred to certain irregularities, which, he said, had taken place during the referendum.

Mr Jayewardene, who cited the Matugama byelection as an example, said that certain irregularities were common in any election. The president also explaiend how land, business ventures, and even newspapers were vested in the government during the period of the previous regime.

Clandestine Radio on Upcoming Indians Visit

BK180053 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1325 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Two Indian ministers, Palaniappan Chidambaram and Natwar Singh, are to fly to the Sri Lankan capital Colombo this morning to hold talks with the Sri Lankan Government on the problems of the people of Tamil Eelam. Reports from Madras say that P. Chidamabaram and Natwar Singh, who held continuous talks with the Tamil Nadu Government and leaders of the Tamil Eelam fighters in Madras yesterday, sincerely sought the response of the freedom fighters.

A spokesman for the freedom fighters said the talks went over the same old (?points), nothing new was put on the table, and it will be a waste of time to stress the same points again and again.

Reports say the leaders of the freedom fighters, who totally rejected the division of Eastern Province into three parts based on the ethnic groups, acted unitedly and firmly in the case of their Tamil motherland. Reliable sources say Mr P. Chidambaram and Natwar Singh, who returned to New Delhi after the talks in Madras, will return to Colombo this morning after further discussions with government officials in New Delhi for talks with Jayewardene and his aides and important leaders of the opposition parties in Sri Lanka. It is to be noted that P. Chidambaram and Natwar Singh are to go to Colombo leading an Indian delegation only. Political observers say these talks will be final and there is no indication of their being successful.

Indian Ministers Arrive in Colombo

BK171319 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] The two Indian ministers of state — Natwar Singh and P. Chidambaram — arrived in Colombo this afternoon for further talks with the Sri Lankan Government with a view to evolving a solution to the ethnic problem. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the two ministers are scheduled to meet President J.R. Jayewardene at 1900 [1330 GMT] this evening. The ministers are expected to spend 2 days in detailed discussions in Colombo. Earlier this week they held detailed discussions with the TULF and five terrorist groups in Madras. They returned to New Delhi yesterday and after consultations with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, flew into Colombo.

President Jayewardene told the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, J.N. Dixit, yesterday that he is looking forward to seeing the Indian ministers and having discussions with them to (?reach) to a practical and durable solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic problem. The president informed Mr Dixit, who called on him, that he would keep himself free for detailed discussions with the Indian ministers from today to the 19th, Friday.

Mr Dixit said that the Government of India would like to ensure that the package of proposals [words indistinct] does not erode Sri Lanka's (?independence) and integrity.

Two Bombs Defused at Colombo Fort Substation

BK171200 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Two plasting bombs weighing 20 kilograms and packed in a James Bond style briefcase were found by a (? night) watcher at the electricity substation in Colombo Fort at 0600 [0030 GMT] today. He immediately telephoned police and the Army bomb disposal squad, which rushed to the scene and defused the bombs. Police told LANKA PUWATH that if the bombs had exploded extensive damage would have been caused to the electricity substation and damage to the office complex adjoining the station.

Khamene'i Speaks on Upcoming SAIRI Conference

LD171242 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, this morning members of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. In a speech at this meeting Khamene'i, expressing his gladness at the convening of the Conference on the Iraqi People's Cooperation [conference-e hamyari-ye mellat-e Iraq], addressing the members of the conference said: The convening of this conference is one of the best things undertaken by SAIRI. The president added: You are the best examples and symbols of the Iraqi strugglers. Today your entire group, namely SAIRI, is the best group to raise hope in the hearts of the Iraqi people and Iraqi struggling elements.

Khamene'i added: We would like to see all worthy Iraqi forces taking part in this conference. We have no expectations from two groups: first, the group which has the goal of fighting against Islam; second, those who have shown that they have always acted against the interests of the Iraqi people and whose hands have always been linked with the hands of the enemies.

In another part of his speech, the president said: For years the Ba'thist party and the Communists have destroyed the intellectual resources of the Muslim people of Iraq, which is a 1,000-year old center for the propagation of Islamic jurisprudence. It is the duty of SAIRI to prepare the future constitution for the economic, political, military, and administrative order of Iraq and to publish books on its political thesis and to present them to the Iraqi people.

He added: Today Iraq requires political experts, experienced fighters, and those who have been hardened in battle. It requires ideological savants and Islamic ideologies. In the future those people will gain popularity and acceptance among the Iraqis who have worked for the Iraqi people, whether politically or militarily. Today, you Iraqi fighters in Iran live as our dear and respected guests and you fight against the regime. By supporting you totally, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has placed its best capabilities at your disposal.

Khamene'i said: Fortunately, there are signs of victory in the battlefronts as well as on political battle grounds in the world. This is not something that only we feel. Many other people share our views concerning these facts. The East and West have concentrated all their efforts on assessing their situation after the downfall of the Iraqi regime. We can see the signs of these exchanges of opinion in various trips and in various positions taken by politicians.

Concluding, while giving necessary guidelines, the president called on the members of SAIRI to adhere to unity and solidarity and said: In battle one needs unity, religion, reason, and patience. One should endure difficulties and problems.

According to this report, Chairman of SAIRI Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim presented a report about the preparations made for the convening of the Conference on the Iraqi People's Cooperation and the readiness of the Iraqi people and strugglers for a wide-scale battle against Saddam's regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments

LD171754 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 17, IRNA — Officials in charge of the Conference on Iraqi People's Cooperation (Dec 24-28) met with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here Wednesday. The conference officials briefed Hoj. Rafsanjani on the agenda of the upcoming meeting to be held in Tehran.

Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani stressed that all Iraqi dissident groups should be allowed to participate in the conference. He said special attention should be paid to promote greater unity and involving Iraqi Muslim people in the scene. The hojjat ol-eslam told the officials that it was absolutely essential that the masses should enthusiastically participate in a revolution. He added that the conference should enunciate its policies on Iraq's independence and territorial integrity.

Majlis Speaker on Islamic Revolution Leadership

LD171928 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 17, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Wednesday that the Islamic Republic of Iran has completely frustrated attempts of enemies of the Islamic Revolution to isolate it. Rafsanjani made the remark in a speech to a group of visiting officials in charge of holding ceremonies marking the anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution during the ten days of Fajr (February 1-11). The speaker also called on the officials to conduct a counter campaign against anti-Islamic Revolution propaganda raised by certain foreign mass media. The invulnerability of the revolution as well as its resiliency should feature prominently in the campaign, the speaker said. "Islam is the key to our victories," he added.

Rafsanjani said that the leadership of the Islamic Revolution guarantees the solidarity and unity of the Iranian nation. Such leadership cannot be found in Lebanon or any other place in the world, he added. The Majlis speaker noted that the world now lacks effective leadership. The Islamic system of government in Iran, he noted, is based on the sovereignty of the supreme religious leader (velayati-e-faqih) and is free of all blemishes. "The Iranian people are firmly committed to their Islamic values," Rafsanjani asserted.

Sudan's Prime Minister Arrives for 4-Day Visit

Welcomed by Musavi

LD171107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, at the official invitation of Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and defense minister of the Republic

of the Sudan, arrived in Tehran today at the head of a high ranking political, economic, and cultural delegation for a 4 day official visit.

According to this report, the Sudanese prime minister was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi; Minister of Defense Colonel Jalali; Minister of Mines and Metals Ayatollahi; Deputy Prime Minister in charge of political affairs Mo'ayyeri; a number of Majlis deputies; the deputy foreign minister; and a number of political and economic figures, foreign ambassadors and diplomatic representatives stationed in Tehran.

According to this report, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is accompanied on this visit by the Sudanese minister of energy and mines; a number of members of the Constituent Assembly; and a number of political, economic, and cultural figures of Sudan.

Begins Talks With Musavi

LD172003 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] The first round of talks between the high-ranking delegations from the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the Republic of Sudan were held at the Prime Ministry Office in the presence of the two countries' prime ministers this afternoon. During this round of talks, attended by prominent members of the two countries' delegations, the basis and foundation for strengthening the two countries' relations were specified. Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, referring to the need for establishing unity among the Islamic nations, said: Strengthening unity between Sunnis and Shi'ites has an Islamic (?precedence) because we, in accordance with our belief in God Almighty, the mission of the prophet — may Allah's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion! — and the book of God, have the same beliefs.

In connection with the things commonly shared by the two countries, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi confirmed: Despite the regional propensities involving the two countries, there are extremely clear points in their bilateral relations that bring the IRI and the Republic of Sudan closer together. Indeed, both countries move within the framework of systems which have overthrown debased regimes following a popular revolution. The peoples of both countries believe in Islam, which has adopted the stand of defending the meek within the country and of salvation from international arrogance.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi also said: We have come to Islamic Iran to acquaint ourselves with the experience of applying Islamic beliefs and tenets under the present circumstances of the IRI.

Then Prime Minister Musavi, in connection with the significance of unity among the Islamic nations, said: One of the greatest aims of our Islamic Revolution is establishing unity among the Islamic nations; thanks to the guidelines issued by the leader of the Islamic Revolution, this unity has been realized between our Sunni and Shi'ite brethren in Islamic Iran. These guidelines enjoy a worldwide scope.

Musavi emphasized: We attach special importance to establishing unity among the Islamic nation and believe that the issue of unity should be the subject of discussion both from the scientific and political viewpoints!

The prime minister said: The two countries have a great many things in common: things shared that have Islamic motivations as their bases and foundations. We believe that the Islamic motivations that strongly exist among our people also exist within the Muslim nation of Sudan, as evidenced by the Sudanese people's uprising against the Numayri regime, which supported a deviationist Islam and was an apologist of the overlordship of the arrogant systems.

The prime minister emphasized: Under the circumstances whenthe colonialists are hatching plots against the Islamic world, there are great motivations for establishing unity among the Islamic nations, among those, one may include the mobilization of all efforts for the liberation of Holy Jerusalem and for waging struggle against world arrogance.

Mr Musavi added: We see extremely clearly the benefits of the two countries' relations for the Islamic world and believe that mutual assistance and cooperation — the covenant of which could be formulated in accordance with Islam — would bring immense blessings for all the Islamic countries.

In conclusion, referring to the factors for the victory of the Iranian people in the various phases of the Islamic Revolution, the prime minister said: As we have experienced, whenever we rely on God and the believing Muslim people during our difficulties, we become victorious!

According to the same report, the two delegations then conducted specialist technical talks on a high level. The prime ministers of the two countries specified the framework for strengthening bilateral relations.

Also attending this round of talks were Minister of Mines and Metals Ayatollahi and the political deputy prime minister, on behalf of Iran; the Sudanese minister of energy and mines, and the two delegations' experts from various ministries, and the parliaments of Iran and Sudan.

Meets Cultural Revolution Council

LD181206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister of Sudan Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, on a visit to Tehran leading a high-ranking political, economic, and cultural delegation, met the members of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution at Tehran University this morning. During the meeting, also attended by the prime minister's political deputy, Ahmadi, the imam's representative to the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, expounding on the role and significance of science in the country's Islamic system dwelt on the changes that have taken place in the educational system following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, saying: Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution our universities became Islamic in all areas.

According to our correspondent's report Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, too, recounted the two countries' common viewpoints on Islamic and cultural problems. Announcing the fact that Sudan is determined to hold a forum, entitled the Conference of Islamic Thought, he called for an exchange of views and joint efforts with the cultural officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI).

He then referred to the denominational differences between the Muslim countries, barring those from the Sunni creed from the practice of religious jurisprudence and the subservience of Muslim ulema to rulers, as among the causes for the Muslims distancing themselves from one another and added: These factors have caused the Muslim nations to accept any Western thought. In conclusion he emphasised the need for the return by all the Islamic nations to a genuine Islamic culture.

The report further says that the prime minister of Sudan, at the conclusion of the meeting, visited the central library documents center of the College of Sciences and the biochemistry and biophysics international research center of Tehran University.

Indian Industrial Development Minister Visits

NC170625 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that India's Minister of State for Industrial Development Mr Arunachalam arrived in Tehran last night. He is scheduled to hold talks with a number of Iranian officials and was welcomed by Minister of Heavy Industries Mr Behzad Nabavi.

In an interview with our correspondent, the visiting Indian minister of state said: I am very happy to be here in the Islamic Republic of Iran. An Indian delegation is currently in Tehran to identify various areas of industry suitable for bilateral cooperation. During our stay we will try, through discussions with Iranian officials and participation in special committees, to study these ties and to reach agreements.

Views Barter Exchange With Nabavi

LD171733 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 17, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to have barter exchange deals with India with a view to securing the two countries heavy industrial requirements, announced Iran's Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi in the first round of talks with visiting Indian Minister of State for Industrial Affairs Arunachalam, here Wednesday.

The Indian offical said that his country is to put its industrial experiences and expertise at the disposal of the Islamic Republic as well as benefit from Iran's know-how in the field.

Arunchalam said that India is prepared to cooperate with Iran in establishing cement plants, manufacture of passenger and cargo train cars, as well as road-construction machinery. He said India is willing to help Iran in the industrial sector in addition to promote the export of products in the area.

The Indian minister furthermore said his country has been a purchaser of Iranian crude oil for many years and New Delhi is willing to buy Iranian non-oil goods as well.

In response, Nabavi expresed hope that delegations of the two countries would accurately assess areas in which Tehran-New Delhi could collaborate. He added that the Islamic Republic is interested in barter exchange deals with India. The Iranian minister also noted that goods traded between the two countries should be of internationally accepted quality and be standardized. It is essential that the quaility of the goods not be ignored, Nabavi said.

Nabavi furthermore called on the Indian Government to participate with Iran in joint investment schemes, noting that the Islamic Republic is not opposed to the involvement of a third country in such projects. Existing problems as well as obstacles in the two countries' industrial relations were also discussed at the meeting.

The Indian minister arrived here Tuesday night at the head of a delegation.

U.S. Aid to Iraq, 'Nonimpartiality' Viewed

LD171756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran today issued a statement announcing: The news of U.S. intelligence and military information assistance to the warmongering regime of Iraq, disclosed by the mass media, and the confirmation of this disclosure by White House officials, once again, in addition to clarifying Iraq's dependency and affiliation with the United States more than ever, also exposed the non-impartiality of the United States in the imposed Iraqi war and U.S. opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran in a most prominent manner.

The arrogant U.S. Administration that encouraged Saddam in attacking the Islamic Republic of Iran has not refrained in all these 6 years of holy battle being waged by the people of Iran from providing every kind of direct and indirect arms, intelligence, and political and economic assistance to that inhuman regime. This is a reality that the Islamic Republic of Iran was well aware of from the very start of the war, and has said so.

Even though the publicizing of this issue by the U.S. mass media is presently aimed more at reducing political pressure on the Reagan administration and on the CIA — which is presently under pressure due to the disgraceful defeat of the U.S. Administration in its foreign policy — this itself clearly shows the U.S. role in fanning the flames of war in the world.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning the United States' hostile and inhuman act of sending intelligence and military information assistance to the Iraqi regime, believes that this action is a continuation of and along the same line as other aggression and interference of U.S. arrogance in its confrontation with liberation- and independence-seeking nations, and declares that these kinds of puny deeds undertaken to protect and maintain the decrepit Iraqi regime, have not had much effect on

the fate of the war. The combatants of Islam will not rest until they have eliminated the tyrannical regime ruling over Iraq and have vindicated their just right.

UN Notified of U.S. 'Hypocrisy' in War

LD180955 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 18, IRNA — The Permanent Bureau of the Islamic Republic of Iran to United Nations sent a letter to the Secretary-General of UN Javier Perez de Cuellar proving the U.S. hypocrisy of being 'neutral' in the Iraqi imposed war.

Pointing to the recent disclosure of the Central Inteligence Agency's (CIA) intelligence reports to the Iraqi regime concerning Iran's industrial centers, the letter said the savage Iraqi air raids during the past weeks caused the death of several innocent civilians.

The letter also added that the U.S. political, military, and intelligence support of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has encouraged its criminal policies in the imposed war even spurning international requests to observe war regulations.

Qom Theologian Lauds Khomeyni on Hashemi Case

LD180018 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., Dec 17 IRNA — Chairman of the Assembly of Experts and Secretary of teachers' association of Qom Theological School Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini lauded the leader of the Islamic Revolution for having ordered an investigation into the case of former head of the global liberation movements department of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mehdi Hashemi and his accomplices.

In his letter to the founder of the Islamic Republic, Meshkini called for a meticulous and impartial trial of Hashemi and his group. The future spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, too, made a similar appeal on Monday.

Ayatollah Meshkini also praised imam for having prevented the arrested group from jeopardizing Islam and harming theologians and theological schools.

Mehdi Hashemi and forty of his accomplices have been arrested and interroagted on charges of murder, assassination, kidnapping, collaboration with former Iranian secret police, SAVAK, and attempting to subvert the Islamic Revolution.

Montazeri Relatives Deny Ties With Hashemi

LD180801 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 18 Dec 86

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., Dec 18, IRNA — Said Montazeri and Seyyed Hadi Hashemi, son and son-in-law of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, in a statement here Wednesday, categorically denied any ideological ties or organisational cooperation with the former head of the liberation movement bureau, Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi.

Seyyed Hadi Hashemi who is also the head of Ayatollah Montazeri's office, and Said Montazeri referred to plots of imperialist powers, foreign radios, and the Iranian fugitives who are exploiting Mehdi Hashemi's relationship to the Montazeri family through marriage for their ominous plans.

The statement added that as per Imam Khomeyni's firm orders and also Ayatollah Montazeri's instructions, charges against Mehdi Hashemi, both before and after the revolution should be impartially investigated and Islamic justice should prevail, before which all are equal.

The statement described the enemies' efforts to exploit relationship of Mehdi Hashemi with the Ayatollah as "malicious plots", which by distorting realities on one hand aim at portraying disputes among Iranian officials and on the other hand are trying vainly to weaken the Islamic Revolution through promoting deviative tendencies.

These plotters, the statement stressed, should remember that the decisiveness of the leadership of Imam Khomeyni successfully thwarts all plots of both the East and the West.

They reaffirmed their allegiance to the imam and prayed for victory of the Islamic combatants in the imposed-war, at the end of the statement.

Embassy in Kuwait Protests 'Unlawful Action'

LD171827 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Following the arrest and deportation of a number of Iranians lawfully residing in Kuwait and the sinking of the motor launch carrying them in the sea, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kuwait in two separate notes to the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs has protested that inhuman deed and has declared:

Some time ago, a number of Iranians lawfully residing in Kuwait were arrested by Kuwaiti state officials, and, without any lawful justification, were ordered to be deported. Unfortunately, the Kuwaiti officials, without considering their lawful wishes or human and Islamic principles, deprived the Iranians, who had spent many years contributing to the growth and development of Kuwait, of the right to choose the means of their return to their country — preferably by air. On 16 November they expelled them from Kuwait by motor launch, which unfortunately sank along the route. As a result, 10 died and several others were lost without a trace.

Another part of this note read: According to statements by the relatives of the expellees and other eyewitnesses, some of those expelled even had plane tickets, but despite their collective insistence to leave by air at their own personal expense, the Kuwaiti authorities did not pay the least attention.

Concluding the note, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kuwait expressed its protest against any expulsion of Iranians by sea and against the perishing of a number of Iranians due to

mistreatment by Kuwaiti officials and called for the investigation and questioning of the relevant officials.

In this connection, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires to Tehran was summoned yesterday by the political director general for Arab and African countries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and a protest was lodged against this inhuman and unlawful action by the Kuwaiti Government. During the meeting, the political director-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while declaring that the Islamic Republic demands a stringent investigation and an official Kuwaiti Government report on this issue, considers the Kuwaiti Government to be a partner in these crimes. He also referred to the lack of communication to the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait prior to the expulsion of these Iranians as an action running counter to international laws, and alluded to this action and the torture of detained Iranian nationals in Kuwait as the height of improper treatment of Iranian nationals.

According to this report, according to certain Iranian expellees, certain Kuwaiti officials have misappropriated plane tickets of Iranians that are enclosed in their passports and sent to the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry. Approaching airline ticket offices and introducing themselves as the friends of the detainees, they cash in the tickets and keep the money for themselves. Among such officials can be named Muhammad Khaldu, a Kuwaiti security official who has often resorted to such deeds after showing his identity card and using threats.

Sudanese POW's Request Government 'Pardon'

LD161939 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 16 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 16, IRNA — In an interview with the print and broadcast media here Tuesday a group of 10 Sudanese prisoners of war requested pardon from the Islamic government and expressed hope that they would be allowed to go to their home country. They said during their captivity in Iran they had learned a lot about the Islamic Republic and the cultural and religious values in Iran which had totally disproved hostile propaganda against the Islamic government.

The group of Sudanese prisoners of war were captured during military operations by Iran's Muslim combatants code-named Khaybar in February 1984. They said the Baghdad government initiated the war with Iran and is the aggressor party in the conflict. They called on other Sudanese soldiers to desert the Iraqi Army.

Sudanese soldiers now with the Iraqi Armed Forces were sent to Iraq upon order by former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. The Baghdad government has banned their return to Sudan and is keeping them with the Iraqi troops under intimidation.

The group of Sudanese POW's asked Iran's pardon. They also called on the Iraqi soldiers not to carry on the fight with the Islamic Republic "which is the symbol of Islam." They said they had personally witnessed deployment by the Iraqi Armed Forces of lethal chemical weapons against Iran's Muslim combatants in the battlefronts, but added that the devotion, the self-committment, and the resolution of Muslim combatants had in every instance prevailed over the Iraqi military hardware.

The POW's also said that in their camps in Iran they are provided with all sorts of amenities, and that the behaviour of their Iranian captors has been "very friendly." They expressed hope that Iran's Muslim combatants would eventually triumph over the Iraqi forces.

WIH Spokesman Comments on Egyptian Detainees

LD171155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters [WIH] has announced: With regard to the request made by a group of Islamic and militant personalities of Egypt for the release of Egyptian subjects arrested in Persian Gulf waters, the regime of Egypt is trying to take advantage of the situation to deceive public opinion in Egypt.

He added: During the imposed war a group of Egyptian mercenaries have fought against the forces of Islam, side by side with the forces of the Iraqi regime, and now a number of them are detained in our camps as mercenaries. The case of these mercenaries is quite different from that of those who were not engaged in the war and are suspected of having been involved in intelligence gathering in the Persian Gulf waters. He continued: The responsible officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran are now studying these individuals' cases and if they prove not to have been espionage agents they will be released and handed over to an Egyptian Islamic organization or militant figures.

The WIH spokesman added: There are no Egyptian prisoners of war in iran. The Egyptian subjects, detained by the Iranian authorities, are either mercenaries or suspected of spying. Therefore, the abuse of the present situation by the Egyptian authorities, trying to pretend that Mubarak's regime cares about the fate of that country's subjects, should not divert the attention of the Muslim people of Egypt from that regime's crimes. For if the Egyptian regime were really interested in the fate of the Egyptian citizens, then first it would not have allowed the Iraqi regime to use them as mercenaries in the imposed war instead of fighting against the usurping Israel; and, second, it would have tried to do something for the release of its subjects as soon as they were captured. However, for some time the Egyptian regime denied that there were any Egyptian forces in the war at all, and now in this opportunist move it is taking advantage of developments to deceive its own people.

Cabinet Session Considers Conditions in Prisons

LD171247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, during today's session of the cabinet, after reviewing the main domestic and foreign events, a report was presented on the progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal to end the clashes in Lebanon. Afterwards, the supervisor of the country's prisons submitted a report to the cabinet on the situation in the prisons and the

number of prisoners, including those detained on charges of drug trafficking, members of the counterrevolution, and perpetuators of vices and forbidden deeds. In part of this report, while denying reports of Zionist affiliated organisations and the mass media on the number of the prisoners and their plight, he referred to conspiracies of foreign powers and their internal agents as an attempt to create an adverse climate because the Islamic Republic system is against their interests.

He said: The establishment of the Intelligence Ministry and approval of bills by the powerful foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran have played a significant role in reducing the effects of conspiratorial and counterrevolutionary moves. He added: After assigning the task of training the prisoners to the Islamic society, the number of prisoners dropped to the lowest figure possible.

Continuing this session, a sum of over 1 billion rials, collected from revenues saved by the Defense Ministry and its subsidiaries, the defense industries, ETCA [arms manufacturing unit affiliated to the Defense Ministry], and other centers and also 1 day's salary donated by the employees, was submitted to the government for building schools and health centers in the flood-stricken areas. The sum was placed at the disposal of the flood relief headquarters, set up in the prime minister's office.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Plane Downed Over Bakhtaran

LD171453 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 17, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was shot down here at 11:30 hours local time (08:00 hours GMT) Wednesday by Iranian anti-aircraft fire. There is yet no immediate report on the fate of the plane's pilot and a search to find him is underway.

The downed Iraqi plane was among a group of enemy jet fighters which attempted to bomb residential areas in this western city but failed.

Communique No 2,688

LD171611 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 17 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 17, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained considerable casualties and several enemy tanks and many vehicles were destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants throughout the fronts Tuesday, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Communique Number 2,688 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern and western fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Kushk and Mehran operational theaters as a result of which Iraqi forces suffered heavy casualties and losses.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces shelled Iraqi positions especially in Piran Shahr Tuesday killing a number of enemy soldiers and destroying some light as well as heavy vehicles of theirs.

Iraqi armoured units in the southern operational theaters of Hoseyniyeh and Yabis incurred substantial losses Tuesday when they came under Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions in Marivan, northwestern fronts, Tuesday inflicting several casualties and losses on enemy troops. Reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters were also checked.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces suppressed Iraqi military operations in parts of the western and southern fronts Tuesday inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops and destroying parts of their fortifications. They also carried out successful intelligence-gathering missions in Dehloran.

According to the communique, Iraqi engineering operations were disrupted and enemy armoured units suffered considerable damage in Mehran, Helaleh, and Qasr-e Shirin operational theaters by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday.

Iraqi engineering operations in Nahr-e Anbar as well as reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters in Zayd and Talayeh were checked Tuesday, the communique said.